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# Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 12306 070844Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /013 W
----------129587 070847Z /20 R
R 060728Z SEP 78
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3209
INFO MEMBASSY TOKYO 3392

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STADIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE FROM SHOESMITH

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AODE
SUBJECT: MODE - STAFFING OF LEGAL LIAISON OFFICES

REF: A. STATE 220260; B. HONG KONG 14829, DEC. 1, 1977

1. HAVING PARTICIPATED DURING EARLY 1976 IN A FULL-SCALE MODE REVIEW OF THE ATTACHED AGENCIES IN EMBASSY TOKYO WHICH RECOMMENDED, INTER ALIA, THE REDUCTION OF ONE AMERICAN AGENT AND ONE AMERICAN SECRETARY IN THE FBI COMPLEMENT, I AM GRATIFIED THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE HAS FINALLY AGREED TO TAKE THAT STEP. HOWEVER, AL-THOUGH I REALIZE THAT OFFSETTING REDUCTIONS ARE A VALID APPROACH UNDER MODE PROCEDURES AND THAT THIS PROPOSAL IS IN LINE WITH OUR OVERALL OBJECTIVE OF REDUCING THE U.S. OFFICIAL PRESENCE ABROAD, I DO NOT SEE THAT THE PROPOSED REDUCTION IN EMBASSY TOKYO'S FBI COMPLEMENT ALTERS IN ANY FUNDAMENTAL WAY THE CONSIDERATIONS WHICH LED ME TO RECOMMEND A SIMILAR REDUCTION IN THE FBI COMPLEMENT AT THIS POST.

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2. WITHIN THE PAST TWO MONTHS, WE HAVE AGAIN EXAMINED IN SOMEWHAT GREATER DETAIL THE WORK-LOAD OF OUR LEGAL LIAISON OFFICE. I REMAIN OF THE VIEW THAT ONE AMERICAN AGENT AND ONE AMERICAN SECRETARY CAN HANDLE THE ESSENTIAL WORK-LOAD OF LIAISON WITH HONG KONG LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND STILL MAKE OCCASIONAL (ALTHOUGH LESS FREQUENTLY THAN IN THE PAST) VISITS TO OTHER

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COUNTRIES IN THE REGION WHERE THE FBI IS NOT REPRESENTED.
I ALSO THINK THAT, WITH A MINIMUM OF COORDINATION, IT
SHOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR THE THREE FBI OFFICES (TOKYO,
MANILA AND HONG KONG) TO WORK OUT ARRANGEMENTS TO PROVIDE
TDY SUPPORT WHEN EITHER THE AGENT OR SECRETARY AT ONE OF
THOSE OFFICES IS ABSENT FOR RELATIVELY SHORT PERIODS OF TIME.
TO COVER MORE EXTENDED ABSENCES OR OTHER EMERGENCY
SITUATIONS AND, WHEN NECESSARY, TO PROVIDE MORE
FREQUENT LIAISON AT OTHER POSTS IN THE REGION, IT
WOULD CERTAINLY SEEM MUCH MORE ECONOMICAL TO DO SO
ON A TDY BASIS OUT OF FIELD OFFICES LOCATED IN HAWAII
OR ON THE WEST COAST THEN TO MAINTAIN AN AGENT AND
SECRETARY IN HONG KONG, NOW ONE OF THE MOST EXPENSIVE
POSTS IN EAST ASIA, ONA FULL-TIME BASIS TO COVER
SUCH CONTINGENCIES.

3. ALTHOUGH I AM CONCERNED TO REDUCE THE OVERALL SIZE
OF THIS POST TO THE DEGREE POSSIBLE CONSISTENT WITH
THE EFFECTIVE PERFORMANCE OF OUR MISSION AND THAT OF
THE ATTACHED AGENCIES, I APPRECIATE THE COMPLEXITY
OF THE ISSUES INVOLVED IN THE MODE PROCESS, AND I
RECOGNIZE THAT MANY FACTORS HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED.
I DO HOPE, HOWEVER, THAT JUSTICE HAS BEEN PRESSED
HARD IN THE INTERAGENCY PROCESS TO RESPOND TO SUCH
CONSIDERATIONS AS I HAVE OUTLINED IN PARA 2 ABOVE.
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# Message Attributes

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